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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

OF NO

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 13 November 1953

SUBJECT Proposed Reorganization of the
"Democratic Bloc"

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE 25X1

ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
INFOSUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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- 25X1 1. On 10 September 1953 the East German "Democratic Bloc" met under the chairmanship of Dr. Hans Loch (LDP). The Democratic Bloc consists of the SED, the East CDU, NPD, LDP, DBD, FDGB, FDJ and DFD. It is the task of the Democratic Bloc to implement the policies of the East German government as laid down in the "new line". In order to do this the Bloc is to "comprise all strata of the East German population and spur them on to joint action" in fulfilling the new line.
2. At the 10 September session a statute for the reorganization of the Democratic Bloc was read to the assembled delegates. According to the statute, each of the parties and mass organizations in the Democratic Bloc is to have four seats, and each is to have the right to delegate suitable representatives to take part in the Bloc meetings. At the close of each session the party or mass organization which is to preside over the next meeting is to be announced, and a main topic of business and a date for the next session are to be decided upon. Members of the Democratic Bloc are to be permitted to call on representatives of political, economic, and scientific and other organizations and institutions to act as reporters or advisers. These representatives will be permitted to attend sessions of the Democratic Bloc in which questions pertaining to their fields of activity are discussed and will be given an advisory vote. The work of the committees of the Democratic Bloc is to be outlined by the decisions of the Bloc and may not be in contradiction to them. The Bloc is obliged to consider proposals and requests of the committees. Any differences of opinion between Bloc members are to be resolved on the spot (an Ort und Stelle). In exceptional cases the next higher committee can concern itself with resolving the differences of opinion; in such cases the decision of the next higher committee is final. The Democratic Bloc and the Bezirk, Kreis, and Gemeinde Bloc committees have the right to require the competent Bloc committee to take care of such matters. The Central Democratic Bloc and the Bloc committees from the Bezirke, Kreise, and Gemeinden are to meet, where possible, every month. Additional sessions may be called when necessary. Chairmanship of the Democratic Bloc is to rotate among the member organizations of the Bloc. The chairman of the Bloc may authorize members of the Bloc to make further suggestions for the order of business of the next session. Commissions

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in which all members of the Bloc are represented may be formed to prepare certain decisions (Entschliessungen) and decrees, in order to support the party or mass organization which has the chairmanship. A short protocol of all decisions is to be sent to all member organizations of the Bloc; if there are no objections to the protocol at the next meeting, it is to be considered approved. The liaison office of the Bloc is to be in the Secretariat of the National Front. At the request of the chairman it will take care of invitations and the protocol. Decisions made by the Bloc are to be published in the organs of the members of the Bloc. The directorates of the parties and mass organizations are to assume responsibility for informing their managing and organizational units of important decisions of the Bloc and are to guide them systematically in implementing these decisions.

3. At the suggestion of Wilhelm Koenen (SED), a commission was designated to work over this proposed statute, to incorporate any other points suggested by Bloc members and to render a report on the final version at the next meeting of the Bloc at 6:00 p.m. on 21 September 1953. The commission consists of Hermann Matern (SED), Otto Kuschke (CDU), Dr. Hans Loch (LDP), and Lothar Bolz (NDP).
4. Further points on the agenda of the next session of the Bloc will be the election of the president of the Bloc and a discussion of the activity of the Industrie-und Handelskammer. Further topics may be added. This session will be under the chairmanship of the PDJ.

25X1 Comment. The proposed reorganization of the Bloc may be an attempt on the part of the SED to retreat to a position somewhat similar to the one held before the second SED Party Conference; in line with the "new course", the SED will officially appear as an equal partner in the Bloc rather than as the leading East German party.

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